

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 16 through 24 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Continuing to refer to Fig. 1B, during either a passive or an active scan, the second station 120b uses the directive antenna array to scan the RF airways in search of signals from the access points 110. At each scan direction, the second station ~~110b~~ 120b measures the received beacon signal or probe response and calculates a respective metric for that scan angle. Examples of the metrics include Received Signal Strength Indication (RSSI), Carrier-to-Interference ratio (C/I), Signal-to-Noise ratio (Eb/No), or other suitable measure of the quality of the received signal or signal environment. Based on the metrics, the second station ~~110b~~ 120b can determine a "best" direction to communicate with one of the access points 110a, 110b. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 25 through page 6, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The scans may occur before or after the second station ~~110b~~ 120b has authenticated and associated with the distribution system 105. Thus, the initial antenna scan may be accomplished within the Medium Access Control (MAC) layer. Alternatively, the initial scan may be accomplished external from the MAC layer. Similarly, scans occurring after the second station ~~110b~~ 120b has authenticated and associated with the distribution system 105 may be accomplished within the MAC layer or by processes occurring external from the MAC layer. --